

**Women & the Criminal Justice System
Preventing Incarceration & Promoting Successful Reentry
A Central Vermont Initiative**

Health Care & Economic Benefits Enrollment Pilot

January 2006 Pilot started

- **Initial team members:**
 - Economic Services
 - Dale Women's Facility
 - Probation & Parole
 - Agency of Human Services
- **Defined the women to serve through the pilot:**
 - All sentenced women at 6 months or less to minimum release date & the team also agreed to make effort to include women who are detained at Dale;
- **Developed a protocol outlining the work to be accomplished and by whom**

June 2006 Local Benefits Enrollment Team Expanded

- **Acknowledged the existence of letters of agreement between DOC & Vocational Rehabilitation and DOC & Social Security**
- **Expanded the team to include Voc Rehab, Health Dept, Child Development Division (DCF) & Office of Child Support (when needed)**

What have we accomplished?

- **AHS partners assisting with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applications, food stamp interviews, pre-certification for WIC, and screening for Voc Rehab services**
 - * Most women leave with EBT card in hand
 - * Health Dept provides pre-natal education to all pregnant women
 - * All women may benefit from VR services is screened
- **Health Care applications are submitted for nearly every woman**
- **As of January 2007, 9 women have been served by Voc Rehab**
- **As of May 2007, over 40 women have been served by ESD**

What are some of the challenges?

- **SSI benefits begin within 30 days after determination or the process starts over**
- **Not enough time to thoroughly engage with women who are in jail for just a few days**
- **Integrating the new citizenship documentation process**
- **Integrating the benefits enrollment information/data to our Deter Project – using measurable data to contribute to non-recidivism outcomes**
- **Predicting release dates**

For more information, contact don.mandelkorn@ahs.state.vt.us or call 479-7594 or go to <http://ahs.vt.gov/barre>